

Message Text

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2488

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 2815

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UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 11854

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR, EEC

SUBJECT: EC GRAIN BALANCES FOR 1976/77

REF: (A) TOFAS 348, (B) EC BRUSSELS 11369, (C) EC BRUSSELS 7906

1. SUMMARY: THE COMMISSION S LATEST GRAIN SUPPLY AND DEMAND BALANCES FOR 1976/77 SHOW WHEAT PRODUCTION AND FEED USE UP SUBSTANTIALLY WHILE SOFT WHEAT EXPORTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE DOWN FROM LAST YEAR S LEVEL. IMPORTS OF BARLEY AND CORN ARE EXPECTED TO INCREASE SHARPLY WHILE SORGHUM IMPORTS WILL BE ONLY SLIGHTLY BELOW LAST YEAR S LEVEL. END SUMMARY.

2. WE HAVE OBTAINED THE LATEST SUPPLY AND DEMAND BALANCES DEVELOPED BY THE COMMISSION S GRAIN DIVISION FOR THE 1976/77 CROP YEAR FOR SOFT WHEAT, BARLEY, CORN, DURUM WHEAT, SORGHUM, SYE AND OATS. THE COMPLETE BALANCES WERE TRANSMITTED BY TOFAS 348. SALIENT FEATURES OF THESE BALANCES ARE DISCUSSED IN THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS. THE RANGES GIVEN IN THESE PARAGRAPHS ARE COMPOSED OF THE COMMISSION ESTIMATES
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(FIRST NUMBER) AND THE MEMBER STATE ESTIMATES (SECOND NUMBER).

EARLIER COMMISSION ESTIMATES RE 1976/77 GRAIN BALANCES WERE REPORTED IN REFS. B AND C.

3. SOFT WHEAT. 1976 PRODUCTION IS NOW ESTIMATED AT 35.7 MILLION TONS AS COMPARED WITH 33.9 MILLION TONS IN 1975. DESPITE THE INCREASE IN PRODUCTION, 1976/77 EXPORTS (INCLUDING FOOD AID AND THE WHEAT EQUIVALENT OF FLOUR EXPORTS) ARE ESTIMATED AT 5.6 TO 4.9 MILLION TONS. THE COMMISSION S ESTIMATE IS BROKEN DOWN AS FOLLOWS: FLOUR - 3 MILLION TONS (WHEAT EQUIVALENT), FOOD AID - 1 MILLION TONS, GRAIN - 1.6 MILLION TONS. HOWEVER, THE CURRENT ESTIMATE OF EXPORTS IS SOMEWHAT HIGHER THAN PREDICTED IN MID-SUMMER. THE DECLINE IN EXPORTS RESULTS FROM LOWER BEGINNING STOCKS THIS YEAR AS WELL AS AN ANTICIPATED INCREASE IN THE FEED USE OF WHEAT (NOW ESTIMATED AT 5.9 TO 6.3 MILLION TONS FOR 1976/77).

4. BARLEY. 1976 PRODUCTION IS ESTIMATED AT 29.8 MILLION TONS AS COMPARED WITH 32.3 MILLION TONS IN 1975. IMPORTS OF BARLEY ARE ESTIMATED BY THE COMMISSION AT 3.3 MILLION TONS AS COMPARED WITH 1.5 MILLION LAST YEAR. EXPORTS OF BARLEY ARE EXPECTED TO BE NEGLIGIBLE IN 1976/77 (ABOUT 2.3 MILLION TONS LAST YEAR). HOWEVER, THE COMMISSION STILL ESTIMATES THAT THE EC WILL EXPORT A QUANTITY OF BARLEY MALT EQUIVALENT TO 1 MILLION TONS OF BARLEY THIS YEAR.

5. CORN. 1976 PRODUCTION IS ESTIMATED AT 11.3 MILLION TONS AS COMPARED WITH 14.1 MILLION TONS IN 1975/76. IMPORTS ARE ESTIMATED AT ABOUT 18 MILLION TONS--WELL ABOVE LAST YEAR S LEVEL (NOW ESTIMATED AT 13 TO 14 MILLION TONS) AS WELL AS EARLIER MID-SUMMER ESTIMATES MADE BY THE COMMISSION.

6. DURUM WHEAT. PRODUCTION IS NOW ESTIMATED AT 3.8 MILLION TONS, DOWN ABOUT 500,000 TONS FROM LAST YEAR. HOWEVER, BEGINNING STOCKS FOR 1976/77 ARE 1.5 MILLION (ABOUT 1 MILLION TONS ABOVE QTE NORMAL UNQTE). IMPORTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE ONLY SLIGHTLY BELOW LAST YEAR'S LEVEL OF 1 MILLION TONS. THUS, THE EC WILL AGAIN FACE A MAJOR SURPLUS PROBLEM WITH DURUM WHEAT THIS YEAR. EXPORTS ARE ESTIMATED AT 400,000 TONS, AND ENDING STOCKS AT 1.7 MILLION TONS.

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7. OTHER GRAINS. 1976 PRODUCTION OF RYE IS ESTIMATED AT 2.9 MILLION TONS, THE SAME AS LAST YEAR. IMPORTS OF SORGHUM ARE ESTIMATED BY THE COMMISSION AT 1.6 MILLION TONS IN 1976/77, ONLY SLIGHTLY BELOW LAST YEAR S LEVEL OF ABOUT 1.8 MILLION TONS. HINTON

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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